NEWS

Fallbrook woman gets life in kidnapping conspiracy

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VISTA — A plot to kidnap, torture and murder her formerbusiness partner and lover has earned a Fallbrook woman a sentenceof life in federal prison.

After a two-week trial last year that included the testimony ofa former Soviet spy, Kimberly Bailey was convicted of kidnapping,conspiracy to kidnap, and using interstate commerce in amurder-for-hire scheme in connection with the disappearance ofRichard Post, 54, a San Diego private investigator. Jurors atBailey's trial decided that prosecutors had not proved beyond areasonable doubt that Post was, in fact, murdered.

Prosecutors alleged in court documents that Post was shot andkilled in Mexico in August 1998. His body has not been found.

Bailey, who sold machines that she said cured diseases withelectromagnetic waves, contended that Post embezzled money from hercompany and that he is alive and spending the money in Mexico.Prosecutors dismissed Bailey's arguments as an attempt to avoidresponsibility for Post's death.

After her trial, Bailey began representing herself, withattorney Bernard Skomal appointed to serve as an advisory attorney.Skomal and Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Major, who prosecutedthe case, could not be reached for comment Friday.

Federal prosecutors alleged in court documents that Bailey, JohnKrueger and Humberto Iribe developed a plan in August 1998 tokidnap Post for “the unfair way they felt he was treating them” andto recover money they alleged he had stolen from Bailey.

Post was lured to Mexico on Aug. 20, 1998, with “lies and falsepromises.” He then was “snatched” off the street and taken to anabandoned house in Tijuana, where Bailey, Krueger and Iribediscussed the kidnapping and how to cover up the crime, prosecutorsalleged.

Prosecutors alleged Post was held hostage for five days asKrueger and Bailey traveled between the U.S. and Mexico and lied toPost’s family about what had happened to him.

Bailey tried to persuade Iribe to hold Post captive the rest ofhis life, but when Iribe refused, Bailey paid him extra money tokill and bury Post, prosecutors alleged.

Prosecutors alleged Iribe killed Post on Aug. 25, 1998. Baileypaid Iribe $60,000 for his role in the crimes, prosecutorsalleged.

Iribe has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting a September courtappearance to schedule a trial and other court dates. Kruegerpleaded guilty in October 2001 to conspiracy to kidnap and agreedto testify against Bailey at her trial. He was sentenced inNovember 2002 to 12 years in prison.

Prosecutors alleged that after the killing, Bailey admitted toseveral people that she had paid to have Post kidnapped andmurdered. One of those people, according to prosecutors, wasSvetlana Ogorodnikova, who testified against Bailey seven yearsafter being released from federal prison.

Ogorodnikova had served half of an 18-year sentence she receivedfor seducing a Los Angeles FBI agent into selling a confidentialdocument to the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Ogorodnikova testified that she and her husband moved toBailey’s ranch in 1999, and that Bailey had asked her if she couldhire a hit-man to kill witnesses and others involved in the murderof Post.

City News Service contributed to this story.

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Re the absence of ages for the defendants:

No documents I've been able to review in the federal courtrecords provide an age or date of birth for any of the defendantsin this case. None of the stories we have previously publishedprovide an age for Bailey. I also was unable to reach theprosecutor or the attorney advising Bailey to ask for the ages.

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